

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION

Tuesday, August 13. 1706.

WELL, Gentlemen, now you have a Protestant Wind, and after impatient Waiting, our Fleet and Army are sail'd with a fresh Easterly Gale, to make an Attempt of carrying this seditious War into our Enemies Country.

Now you may quickly expect to have all your Conjectures settled, your Doubts concluded, and the grand Question, *where are they going*, answer'd ?

Now we shall see the Effects of a Victory in *Flanders* ; while the Troops of *France* shall not be sufficient to defend their Coasts from the Insults of so small a Force, as 20000 Men.

And now say some Gentlemen very heartily, *down goes the French King* ; I confess, reducing the *French Power*, seems a thing more in View now, than ever I thought

reasonable to expect ; and I cannot tell what to say to Monsieur the King of *France*, if he does not give Peace to *Europe* now, according to his own haughty Phrase ; and that upon their own Terms, he may soon have no Peace or no Place in *Europe*, to hide his Head, from the just Resentments of his victorious Neighbours, or his oppress'd People.

Well then, says another, now you are come over to the Point of deposing him—I am come over to just where I was at first ; if he obstinately stands out like a Town besieg'd to the last Extremity, he must be taken by Storm——But if he stoops to Conditions, if he submits to disgorge his assum'd Power, and restore both his own People and his Neighbours ; if he seeks Peace, and offers Liberty and Satisfaction,

the

the Doctrine is the same, the Chains of *Europe* are broke, and the End of the War answer'd.

This is Deposing his Power, and without which Deposing his Person, would be of no Effect; and therefore I am still on the same point; 'tis Peace and Liberty we fight for, and which we must have; if the King of *France* shuts his Eyes against it, he takes the Consequence upon himself; but if he concedes it to your fall Demands, how can you carry on the War?

Indeed, I thought to have said no more to this matter; but the present Crisis of Affairs, the Fleet sail'd, and the Hand of Strength stretch'd out against *France*, bring me about almost by Force to say something, by which I shall explain my Meaning as to the Treatment the *French* King ought to meet with from this Nation.

Mr. *Observer* and I, meaning the same thing all the while, have argued *Pro & Con*, what shall be done with this great *Leviathan*, whom God Almighty in Mercy to the World has touch'd by his Finger, and deliver'd up to be scourg'd by the Kings of the Earth.

Depose him, says Mr. *Observer*, and his Bishoprick let another take, muzzle him, says honest *Roger*—And the like.

Make Peace with him, say I, for we fight for Peace and Liberty; now, that Mr. *Observer*, *Roger*, and my self, may set our Meaning all right, and tell the World, what really is the Sense of this; I desire to propose my Scheme as a **Medium*, by which all the rest will be explained.

Peace is without doubt the only just End of War; and what we all fight for, as I have already prov'd——Nations that stand on the Basis of Liberty and Trade, never fight for Conquest, nor ever commence offensive War——Besides, our fighting in a Confederacy, is protested to be only to restore the Peace and Liberty of *Europe*; of which I have given several Instances.

But I hope, no Man can think my Peace should be such a precarious Trifle, as some formerly have been, under the Pretence and Protection of which an aspiring, ambitious Tyrant may encroach upon his own or his Neighbours Subjects.

Nor can I suppose, that if his own Interest and common Prudence does not guide him to **SUBMIT IN TIME**, you should not go on in the Prosecution of so just a War, to dispossess him of all Manner of Power, Crown, Government, nay and Life too; and give him that due Punishment, that Justice shall allot to the Invader of Nations, Destroyer of Liberty, and the Murderer of Millions.

But my Objection lyes strong against the Deposing the Government of *France*, as a Kingdom, dividing its Provinces among the Confederates, and the like; as that which is,

1. Absolutely destructive of the Principles of Liberty, upon which we stand in *England*, and which we say, is the Native Right of all God's Creation, viz. To be governed by their own Consent——

And this Division of *France* by Conquest, and taking away the Inheritances of the People to divide among the Conquerors, is divesting the lawful Proprietors of their Property; and subjecting them to the Government of another Power against their Will, which seems to me to be erecting the very Tyranny we depose, with only the Alternative of the Persons governing.

2. Absolutely destructive to the Balance of Power, which is the general Safety of *Europe*, and to restore which this War was begun.

3. Impracticable in its self, the several Pretensions of Princes, the Clashing of their Interests, the Jealousies of Power and Trade, and the antiquated Claims of devolv'd Titles and Families, being impossible to be reconcil'd.

These are some of the Reasons, why I argue against the Allies attempting to share the Dominion of *France* among them by Conquest, and the Peace and Liberty of *Europe* being not only what we fight for, but what we really may find all we want in, what have we to propose farther?

But now to explain my self, as to Peace and Liberty, I must own, my Notions of these things may run higher than other Peoples——I am of Opinion, our War is not against the Person, but the Tyranny and Ambition of the *French* King.

Her

Her Majesty does not act against *France* in a single Capacity; it is not a War against the King of *France* by the Queen of *England*, tho' there are personal Provocations too; but 'tis a War between the Nations, as at present bound by their own Circumstances. Now should the King of *France* propose a Peace, it would be a most glorious Clause to record to future Ages to the Honour of the Queen; if Her Majesty should refuse to treat with him personally, and abstracted from his People; but to treat with him and his People together, to treat with the States of *France*, or such Bodies, as may truly represent the People of that Kingdom——This would be restoring Liberty to *Europe*; and to *France* in particular.

If it be answer'd, the *French* have resign'd Voluntarily all their Government into the Hands of their August Monarch, and in treating with him, you treat with them; I answer, perhaps they are so resign'd; but I deny that it was voluntary, but by Art and Force, gradual Encroachment, Court Politicks, Bribery, and the long Artifice of publick Ministers—And if our Attempt upon *France*, should give the People opportunity to reassume their Liberty, it will soon appear, whether the Surrender of their Privileges was Voluntary or no?

In establishing the Liberty of *Europe*, the King of *France* ought to be treated as a profess'd Enemy to it; and therefore the Kingdom of *France*, not the King, is to be Treated with in such a Case.

Nor has Her Majesty any better way to return the Indignities, put upon her Title, her Crown, and Establish'd Dignity, by the present King of *France*, than to Treat him with such just Contempt, as a Person not fit to be engag'd with——As one, whose disregard of Solemn Leagues and Treaties, has render'd him unfit to be depended upon, and below Her Majesty's Regard.

Nor is this an unusual Method; in former Days we find the Treaties between the Kings of *England* and *France*, carried on in the same manner, and in a Treaty between *Henry III.* of *England*, and the

King of *France*; the Nobility of *France*, gave security for their King's performance of the Agreement.

And even in the Reign of the present King of *France*, at the *Pyrenean Treaty*, when the King of *France* Married the Infanta of *Spain*, and by Treaty was to Sign the famous Renunciation of Right or Claim to the Crown of *Spain*, the Spanish Ambassador, *Don Lewis de Haro*, insisted to have the Treaty Sign'd by all the Princes in the Blood, and all the Peers of *France*, the first of which, and I think the last was done, and a Solemn Oath taken —— For the breach of which, Heaven seems to be now calling that Nation to an account.

Now under this Treaty, Mr. *Observator*, your Proposal, and mine too, may be answer'd——If by this Method, the Person of the King of *France* be Rejected, Deposed, or otherwise handled——If by this Treaty, any Province, Territory, or Possession, be conceded, you are then rightfully possess'd: —— Thus, and thus only the thing may be obtain'd, and the Doctrine of National Liberty be entirely preserv'd.

Thus the King of *Sweden*, obtain'd the Dutchy of *Pomerania*, by the Treaty of *Munster*, and the Province of *Livonia*, by the Treaty of *Oliva*:

As to the Doctrine of Inheritance and the Right of *England* to the Province of *Normandy*, or to the Succession of *France*, I dare not say, that Succession of Blood, were it much plainer than can be alledg'd here, can be a *Supersedeas* to the consent of the Assembl'd Body of the People to be Govern'd, I leave that to stand upon its own bottom.

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